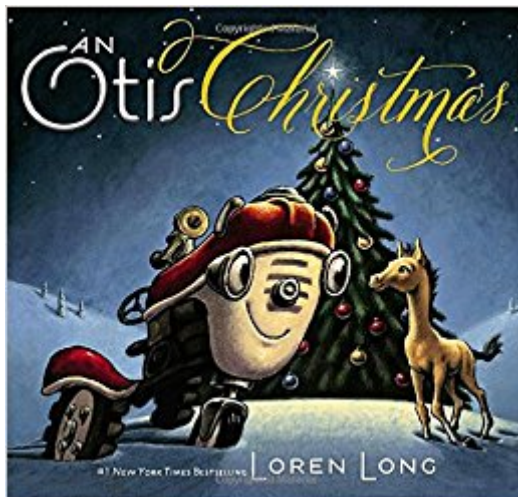


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# An Otis Christmas



## Synopsis

A new Christmas classic from the #1 bestselling creator of *Otis* and the illustrator of *The Little Engine That Could*! It's Christmas eve on the farm where Otis and all of his friends live. The farmer has given Otis his first real Christmas present--a shiny new horn! A tree has been decorated, a big snowstorm is on its way, and all of the animals are excited. Best of all, one of the horses on the farm is about to give birth to a foal! Yet in the middle of the night the horse begins neighing in pain and when the farmer says, "We'd better get Doc Baker out here or we'll lose 'em both," Otis knows the horse is in trouble. Snow has been falling hard for hours and the roads are unpassable. How will they get Doc? Otis to the rescue! He knows a shortcut through the woods and he arrives at the doc's house flashing his headlights and revving his engine. When Doc fails to awake, Otis uses his new horn. Then, with Doc in tow, he races back to the farm just in time for a Christmas miracle . . . and the arrival of a new friend to play with. A warm, feel-good Christmas story featuring everyone's favorite tractor, Otis, the friend you can always count on. From the creator of *Otis*, *Otis and the Puppy*, and the illustrator of *The Little Engine That Could* and *Of Thee I Sing* by President Barack Obama. Praise for *OTIS* \* "Long's gouache and pencil artwork is stunning with a red and cream main character against a sepia-toned monochromatic background. The overall effect is nostalgic and comforting as readers bond with the determined little tractor . . . the satisfying conclusion that speaks of a place for everyone is sure to ring true to children." • School Library Journal, on *Otis*, starred review "Harkens to the golden age of picture books, with a style and tone that recall the work of Virginia Lee Burton and Munro Leaf." • Booklist, on *Otis and the Tornado* "Children will be delighted with this story about friendship." • School Library Journal, on *Otis and the Tornado* "Fans of *Otis* will not be disappointed with the satisfying ending that results in a creative solution and a most happy reunion. Seek this out." • "game on!" • Kirkus Reviews, on *Otis and the Puppy*

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD820L (What's this?)

Series: *Otis* (Book 4)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Philomel Books; First Edition edition (October 22, 2013)

Language: English

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ISBN-13: 978-0399163951

Product Dimensions: 11.3 x 0.4 x 10.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 80 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #104,066 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #138 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > Farm Life](#) #187 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Horses](#) #233 in [Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Christmas](#)

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

K-Gr 3-Otis is back, this time anticipating Christmas and the birth of a new foal. To add to his excitement, he receives a new horn, his first Christmas present ever. His joy is short-lived, however, when, in the middle of a snowy night, he overhears that the mare is sick: "We need Doc Baker out here tonight or we'll lose 'em both!" When the farmhand sent to get Doc plunges into a snowdrift during the raging storm, Otis, as always, comes to the rescue, setting out "with snow up to his chin." He gets lost in the woods only to discover that he is perched on the precipice of a hill. Bravely heading down a steep, slippery branch, he reaches the doctor's house, alerts him with his horn, and brings him back to save the day. The grayish-blue hues that predominate in Long's lovely, large-framed illustrations create a sense of cold stillness. Executed in gouache and pencil, they depict the red tractor in sharp contrast to countryside and woods blanketed in deep snow. There are few surprises here, and the tree branch jutting from the hill seems forced. Traveling down the branch leads Otis a bit too conveniently almost to Doc Baker's door. Otis's fans may turn to this one, but it is an additional purchase.-Marianne Saccardi, formerly at Norwalk Community College, CT  
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**\*Starred Review\*** Otis the tractor returns in a Christmas story of courage and friendship set during a terrible snowstorm at the farm. When the mare's labor becomes difficult on Christmas Eve, a vet is needed—but the truck is stuck in a snowdrift. Otis makes a brave decision: he'll get Doc. Plowing through the woods on a rescue mission, he finds himself on a

difficult path. Long's text conveys not just the danger, treacherous, slippery, but also Otis's effort, putt puff puttedy chuff. But how will he wake Doc in the middle of the night? The farmer's Christmas gift, a shiny new horn, will do the trick. The illustrations wonderfully enhance the story, from the joy of the animals prancing around the Christmas tree to Otis's expressive response to the events around him: pride in his gift, concern for his friend, determination to arrive at his destination. Highlighting the always changing perspective, aerial scenes give readers a sense of the big, snowy picture, and close-ups show the farmer's concern.

Long's palette reflects the coldness and heaviness of the snow, and then lightness as the farmer prays for a miracle. The view into the barn door, once all is well, is reminiscent of another barn birth, and the text reads, Well, would you look at that! That sums things up nicely.

Preschool-Grade 1. --Edie Ching

My daughter and I discover "Otis" by Loren Long a couple of years ago at the library. We loved it so much we bought a copy. We have read it several times. When I saw "An Otis Christmas" was coming out I pre-ordered the book. It arrived this morning. It is a gift, but I couldn't wait to read the book. An Otis Christmas is a wonderful story with a great message, and the illustrations are beautiful too! I can't wait to read it to my children this Christmas.

I am so surprised that the big box book stores in my area don't carry many Otis books. My grandson LOVES them. EVERYBODY here loves them. We started reading them together when he was just 2 years old, and when I told him I had a new Otis book about CHRISTMAS, he gasped and was completely speechless for a few moments with his mouth and eyes wide open. It was awesome, and I am such awesome grandma for buying Otis books :) He is 3 1/2 now, and never gets tired of the stories and illustrations. An Otis Christmas does not disappoint, the artwork is INCREDIBLE as always, and Otis does indeed show everyone how important and sweet he is, even though he has been replaced by the big shiny tractor (previous storyline). I have about 125 years of books in my home, including 4 generations of children's books and literature, and these are right up there with the best, especially the illustrations. This is not cutesy, sing songy, bright colored, loud stuff, like so much else that is out there. This is seriously brilliant and compelling and sweet.

This story is just precious. My son loves tractors and has a few other Otis books. I am saving this for him for Christmas (yes I know I'm way early to be shopping) but wanted to make sure I got a copy. Warms my heart that this Otis story has a special Christmas miracle and that his present is what

helps the farm out.

grandson, Otis, loves these books which carry a wonderful message, are beautifully illustrated and great oversized size.

Another great Otis book. This one is cute because of the festive theme. I loved it because it features a horse!

Another fabulous Otis book, I just can't get enough of them. I adore the sweet and courageous tractor who is willing to do anything for his friends. When Otis's friend, the mare struggles to give birth, he sets out for the doctor despite a furious snowstorm. With the help of his shiny new horn, Otis once again manages to save the day in a satisfying way. I have to say though that while I love the story, it's the illustrations that win the day. They are so rich in feeling and color and detail. A wonderful story about friendship and sacrifice great for sharing!

My son and daughter LOVE Otis! This is such a cute book, all the Otis books we've read, if highly recommend.

Best christmas book ever, hands down.

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